

Department for Children and Families
Child Development Division
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2901

[phone] 802-241-3110
[toll free] 800-649-2642

Agency of Human Services

<http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd>

Children's Integrated Services
Pilot Areas Announcement
July 22, 2010

In order to enhance services to children and families and improve efficiencies in service delivery, the Child Development Division (CDD) plans to fully integrate all CIS services in each AHS region. A key step in this process is to allocate all CIS funding to one fiscal agent per region, who will ensure the provision of all CIS services: Early Intervention, Nursing and Family Support, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health, and Specialized Child Care. All regions have been working toward this goal, and all have made significant progress. Legislation passed this year limited us to piloting this new framework in three regions. Our goal is to achieve statewide implementation in FY12 through phasing in regions as they are ready to move forward.

Phase 1 selection process

Ten of the 12 AHS regions expressed initial interest in being one of the three Phase 1 grantees. In order to select the three regions most able to move forward, the state CIS team developed an objective application and review process. A short application form was developed, which asked applicants to describe how the lead organization (fiscal agent) functioned within the community, its organizational capacity and structure, its ability to ensure continued delivery of all CIS services, experience in providing early childhood services, and fiscal management capacity. We were looking for information on the organization's ability to lead a regional integration process and fully participate in the CIS "learning community", which will pave the way for subsequent regions. We were not evaluating the organization's quality of service.

We received six excellent applications from organizations ready to move forward with full integration:

Lamoille (Lamoille Family Center)
Brattleboro (Winston Prouty Center)
Bennington (Sunrise Family Center)

Franklin/Grand Isle (NCSS);
Addison (Addison County PCC)
Rutland (Rutland Area VNA)



A nine person review team was assembled and tasked with reviewing and scoring the applications, based on the information provided in the application by the applicant. Five of the nine review team members had no or little experience with the applicants, ensuring a truly objective review. Team members had two weeks to review and score the applications, then met for two hours as a group to discuss each application, gather additional information from others on the team, and revise their scores based on that information, if they desired. Scores were tallied, with the three applicants having the highest average scores selected as Phase 1 grantees. They are:

Lamoille (Lamoille Family Center)
Franklin/Grand Isle (NCSS)
Rutland (Rutland Area VNA)

We will be working closely with the three Phase 1 grantees over the next several months to resolve several outstanding issues. As this is a new service delivery method for all of us, we view this work as a “learning community” - a group of people who share common values and beliefs and are actively engaged in learning together from each other. The information we learn will help to inform subsequent grantees as we phase in the remainder of the state.